



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**

Monday, January 9, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-0260)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Curry, Vice Chair Berger, Vice Chair Friedman, Commissioner Biondi, Commissioner Franzen, Commissioner Kleinberg, Commissioner McClaney, Commissioner Murray, Commissioner Olivas, Commissioner Rudnick, Commissioner Sorkin and Commissioner Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Kang, Commissioner Savelle and Commissioner Williams

Call to Order

Call to order. (11-5484)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:07 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introduction of January 9, 2012, meeting attendees. (11-5485)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the Agenda of January 9, 2012. (11-5486)

On motion of Commissioner Rudnick, seconded by Commissioner Sorkin (Commissioners Kang, Olivas, Savelle and Williams being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting of December 5, 2011. (11-5487)

On motion of Commissioner Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Kleinberg (Commissioners Kang, Olivas, Savelle, and Williams being absent) the minutes for December 5, 2011, were approved with a typographical correction made as follows:

Page 7, last bullet, 2nd sentence was revised to read as follows:

“In the fall of 2010, the DCFS Executive Team conducted several meetings on out-of-home care.”

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORT

4. Chair’s Report by Patricia Curry, Chair, for January 9, 2012. (11-5488)

Chair Curry reported the following:

- **Commissioner Williams was released from the hospital before Christmas and is recuperating. She welcomes phone calls.**
- **Effective the December 5, 2011 meeting, digital recordings of the Commission meetings will be accessible to members of the public via a link on the Commission’s minutes which are available on the Commission’s website.**
- **On November 7, 2011, the Commission approved a letter to the Board of Supervisors (Board) requesting that services at the Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Court not be eliminated or curtailed.**
- **The Board will be considering an agenda item at the January 10, 2012 meeting that will approve an annual contribution of \$79,000 in Proposition A Local Return Top-of-Pot (Prop A LRTP) Transit funds for the Edmund D. Edelman Children’s Court Shuttle Services, with the remaining annual cost to be financed by the Departments of Sheriff, Fire, and Children and Family Services.**
- **There has been progress working with Board offices on having the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) foster youth and Probation Ombudsman positions report to an independent entity.**
- **The System Team Leadership (SLT) Meeting scheduled for January 18, 2012 will be held at St. Anne’s located at 155 N. Occidental Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90026.**

- Upcoming meeting dates should be forwarded to Martha Arana, Commission Staff, in a timely manner to be placed on the Commission's calendar.

III. PRESENTATIONS

5. Presentation by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) on the DCFS Data Dashboard.

- Rhelda Shabazz, Deputy Director, DCFS (11-5490)

Ms. Shabazz provided the following overview:

Prior to starting the Data Dashboard, Managers from DCFS were sent to Philadelphia, New York, and Georgia to observe how these jurisdictions perform and report their data. Additionally, Teri Gillams, DCFS worked with other County agencies such as Departments of Mental Health (DMH) and Public and Social Services (DPSS) to get a thorough understanding of how other departments are working with their data.

Ms. Gillams, DCFS, provided the Commission a handout of a PowerPoint presentation and presented the following:

- The objective of the Data Dashboard is to strengthen the departmental collection and analytical process of data and aide in the prioritization of data as an organization.
- For the past year, under the leadership of Ms. Gillams, there has been a monthly data partnership workgroup with the participation of Bryce Yokomizo, Chief Executive Office (CEO), to strategize and identify the components of prioritizing data.
- Part of the process of working with the Data Dashboard has involved consideration of the requirements and steps necessary to move forward with a data-driven decision making approach.
- A guideline of principles was created to ensure that the Department collectively understands the set of priority data and that the data is being interpreted effectively.
- The following are steps in the Business Process Sequence necessary to gain insight as to how data can inform practice:

Step 1) Local Level Conversations: Includes discussion and

consideration within the DCFS offices to understand the background of the data to better comprehend the significance of the data.

Step 2) Bureau level conversations: Includes discussions between Management, Regional Administrators, and Deputy Directors to share insightful information being learned from the data in order to move forward as an organization.

Step 3) Conversation as a Department: Involves bringing together managers and team members in the Department to have a comprehensive conversation sharing knowledge and experience.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Gillams explained the following:

- The “Dash Board” is the container for the priority data acting as a central location for the data. Data is being viewed from several different perspectives starting at the Department level and down to the individual worker level.
- Ms. Shabazz further clarified that the intent of the Dashboard is to have a comprehensive setting of information to be accessible for viewing by staff of all levels. The storage of information does not expire and requires no additional workload by staff.

In response to the Commission’s questions regarding the Department’s ability to analyze data, Philip Browning, Interim Director of DCFS added the following:

- The workgroup sessions provide a collaborative effort in looking at the data and sharing varying perspectives and identifying what is working and what is not working. External stakeholders had not been included in these sessions; however, this may change in the future.
- Communication between managers and workers is a valuable component in evaluating the information.
- The process allows closer examination of performance measures of different offices that can be learned from.
- Once the process has been established and institutionalized, additional measures that data had previously not been collected on will be incorporated.

- Communication between managers and staff is a key component that will increase the understanding of the data.

In response to the Commission's questions and comments regarding the entering of data, Ms. Shabazz clarified that part of the social worker's day-to-day duties include the entering of data from their cases. The timeframe for entering this data is specified in County policy. The process provides a new way to look at information.

The Commission questioned the Data Dashboard interface in relation to the Berkley Website.

Ms. Gillams responded that the Berkley Website is currently being used by DCFS and factors from the website were taken into consideration in planning the Data-driven Decision Making process. DCFS included some of the Federal measures from the Berkley Website in the priority measures. She added that the project is a continuous learning process and there is opportunity to make improvements as needed. The goal is to shift as an organization and strengthen the County's analytical skills by equipping staff with the necessary tools to perform better data analysis.

Ms. Gillams continued the presentation and explained the composition of the data broken down by the following:

- Dept.
- Bureau
- SPA
- Office
- Section
- Unit
- Worker

Additionally, the data composition allows a drilldown glance of the cases or referrals that the data refers to. Furthermore, DCFS identified the following three perspectives from which the data should be viewed. Within each of the perspectives there will be priority indicators (Draft Indicators). DCFS is currently in the process of developing the priority indicators.

- Safety Outcomes
- Permanency Outcomes
- Well-being Outcomes

The data entered into the Child Welfare Case Management System (CWCMS) by social workers is used to populate into the priority indicators. The timeliness of entering information is a key component due to the transparency and measures of the data. Mr. Browning added that the process is a cultural change for the Department. The process carries high accountability and requires explanation of performance and prompts necessary changes for improvement.

Ms. Gillams added that the process is a mechanism for quantitative and qualitative review.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Kang, Savelle, and Williams being absent) this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

6. Presentation by the Association of Community Human Service Agencies (ACHSA) on Aftercare Services

- Bruce Saltzer, Executive Director, ACSHA
- Sil Orlando, Past President, ASCHA (11-5546)

Bruce Saltzer provided a brief overview of ACHSA and reported the following:

- **ACHSA sent a letter to the Board of Supervisors on December 12, 2011, communicating the legitimate concerns about the outcomes of foster and probation youth leaving the County's child welfare and juvenile justice systems and expressed the need for investment of resources into the delivery of aftercare services for their transition out of care and back into their community. A copy of the letter was provided to the Commission. ACSHA is currently communicating the importance of aftercare for the County's foster and probation youth at various venues.**
- **The Board of Supervisors (Board) recently adopted a position that all youth leaving residential care should automatically be entitled to six months of aftercare to reinforce gains made while in care and prevent youth from reentering the system.**

- As a result of the Board's position, there was an agreement for RFI to utilize Probation IV-E Waiver Reinvestment Funds for Aftercare services. The Probation Department, Department of Mental Health (DMH), and ACHSA had a recent meeting discussing the agreement. A summary of the agreement was provided to the Commission. This agreement included a timeline and projected the contract to be in place by May 1, 2012.

Sil Orlando, Past President, ACHSA reported the following:

- Residential care is currently being used as crisis stabilization for short periods of time and does not provide the tools for re-entry into the community. Aftercare service is not traditional therapy however; it equips at-risk youth with the tools and basic skills to thrive in their community by providing case management.
- Since 2001, ACHSA has been providing aftercare services for probation youth and has had positive results. The results showed 77% of the youth had no further probation violations, 66% were still in school or graduated high school, and 1/3rd had employment.
- The number of youth ACHSA provided services for has gone down over the past two years due to reduction in funding. The average cost of aftercare ranges from \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month and is significantly less than the cost of residential care.

In response to the Commission's questions regarding long waiting periods and funding for services, Mr. Saltzer responded with the following:

- The two sources of funding are Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) and realignment funding. Two years ago the realignment funding was cut by \$40 - \$50 million. DMH has tried to maximize resources under this constraint.
- Half of the \$400,000 in Probation IV Waiver savings will be allocated to indigent youth ineligible for Medi-Cal, and the other half utilized for EPSDT eligible youth. The portion allocated to Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) leads to federal funding and can generate up to \$2,000,000 with federal participation.
- ACHSA starts working with the family while the youth is in residential care to help build the relationship between the family and the program which carries through the transition of the youth back into the community.

- **ACHSA aftercare service includes ensuring substance abuse programs are available.**
- **ACHSA begins measuring the outcomes one year after aftercare services have been provided.**

Chair Curry tabled the following for further discussion:

- **Aftercare services in various situations**
- **Reentry rate for youth who received aftercare services**
- **Permanency and reunification efforts**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Kang and Williams being absent) this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [REVISED SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATE

- 7. Childhood Wellness Committee**
- **Adelina Sorkin, Commission Chair (11-5270)**

Commissioner Sorkin provided the Commission a Committee report dated January 9, 2012. She distributed a draft of the Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office and Commission for Children and Families Child Wellness Policy Survey and requested feedback from the Commissioners on the questionnaire.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Kang, Savelle, and Williams being absent) this item was received and filed.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

V. DCFS INTERIM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- 8. DCFS Interim Director's Report by Philip L. Browning, Interim Director, DCFS. (11-5489)**

Director's Report:

- **In terms of Assembly Bill 12, DCFS has a 46% case conversion rate to the federal eligibility which is critical to the funding.**

- There have been a number of Quality Service Reviews (QSR) reviews in various DCFS offices which have provided knowledge.
- In February, the DCFS Compton office is launching a new concept in terms of social work services. There will be 18 coaches available.
- The Exit criteria for Katie A. settlement agreement was approved by the Federal court. However, there are existing issues with mental health. The settlement has been entered at the State level in addition to the County. Individuals from DMH are participating in the settlement at the State level. The hope is that the State level process will allow additional federal funding for DCFS. The State used Los Angeles County as a model to move processes forward with other counties and the State is providing quarterly updates.
- DCFS had an all managers meeting and invited Assistant Regional Administrators and discussed cultural changes. This meeting provided different perspectives and a step forward to getting everyone involved in the process.
- DCFS is working toward improving quality assessments and controls by ensuring workers are trained properly.
- DCFS is working on the rebalancing of caseloads by fine-tuning the methodology and redistributing staff caseload.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Kang, Savelle and Williams being absent) this item was received and filed.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

Announcements

9. Announcements for the meeting of January 9, 2012. (11-5492)

There were none.

Matters Not Posted

10. Matters not on the posted agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (11-5252)

There were none.

Public Comment

11. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (11-5494)

No members of the public addressed the Commission.

Adjournment

12. Adjournment for the meeting of January 9, 2012. (11-5495)

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.